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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

DATE DISTR. 23 October 1952

SUBJECT The Known History of a Consignment of Russian-
Labelled Streptomycin Sulphate

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. In mid-June of 1952, DHZ Pharmazie, Berlin, was told to expect 50 kgs of streptomycin from the USSR for East German use. This caused some surprise in DHZ Pharmazie, because

(a) no Russian antibiotics had previously been received in East Germany for East German use.

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(b) On the contrary, the Russian authorities had hitherto often taken part of East Germany's imports for the Russian medical stores at Fuerstenwalde. These East German imports were usually obtained illegally [REDACTED]

2. However, the DHZ Pharmazie Dresden branch did receive the 50 kgs from Bad Schandau (railroad frontier crossing point.)¹ It was a normal procedure for DHZ Pharmazie Dresden to receive such goods first, take samples for testing if necessary, and pass the goods on to Berlin.

3. (a) DHZ Pharmazie, Dresden, found the streptomycin sulphate packed in bottles holding 1 gram and labelled [REDACTED] below.

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Ministry of Health of the USSR

500,000 units

Streptomycin

sulphate

sterile

Use only on physician's directions

Store at a temp. / 20°C

Series No. Control No.

April 1953

B 9652

96

on another bottle these numbers appeared as
B 9052 and 90

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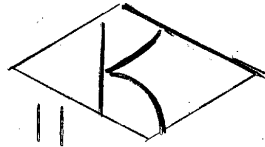
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(b) On the bottom of the bottles were the following marks.



4. DHZ Dresden thought that the streptomycin looked dirty. They opened one or two bottles and injected a liquid, allegedly water, to dissolve the streptomycin sulphate. This was to demonstrate further the impurity of the substance. DHZ Dresden wished to refuse the whole delivery on the grounds of gross impurity and informed DHZ Berlin accordingly.
5. DHZ Berlin reported the matter to the East German Ministry of Health. The latter then ordered DHZ Dresden to send specimens to the Ministry for testing. Specimens were shipped to the Ministry which sent some to Professor Johannes Kathe (Rostock University) and some to Professor Hans Knoell (Jena). Professor Knoell later telephoned the Ministry to say that the streptomycin should not be used without being recrystallized.

1. [] Comment: Bad Schandau is the normal crossing point for pharmaceutical (and other) goods from the satellites. As stated, East Germany had not hitherto received any Russian pharmaceutical goods; it is not known if Bad Schandau would be a normal crossing point for these.

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